[21st March 1921

Estates Land Act Amending Bill.

422 Q.—Sri Meka V. Appa Rao: To ask the Hon'ble the Law Member whether it is the intention of the Government to bring up any amending Bill to the Estates Land Act of 1908 during the next session.

A.—The Government are unable to give an undertaking to introduce a Bill to amend the Estates Land Act next session, but they will do so as soon as possible.

Water-supply in Guntūr.

423 Q.—Mr. P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(*a*) whether the Government intend to take up the question of augmenting the pipe water-supply for the Guntūr Municipality for providing house-to-house services;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the Guntūr Municipal Council applied for a loan of Rs. 63,000 for the purpose for the year 1921–22; and

(*c*) whether the Government could make a grant of similar amount from provincial funds with a view to giving relief to the town regarding water-supply.

A.—(*a*) The question will be considered when the estimates for the work are sanctioned.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) At present the Government cannot commit themselves to a promise.

Justices of the peace.

424 Q.—Diwan Bahadur Govindoss Chathurbujadoss Avargal: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) to state the requisite qualifications to be possessed by persons in order that they may be nominated justices of the peace;

(*b*) whether in this presidency, non-officials, European or Indian, have been nominated as such and, if so, the number of each nationality;

(*c*) whether there is any rule debarring non-official Indians from being nominated justices of the peace and, if so, whether Government does not think it just and advisable to delete the rule;

(*d*) whether it is contemplated by the Government to appoint, in the near future, non-official Indians such as honorary presidency magistrates as justices of the peace; and

(*e*) whether in other presidencies, non-official Indians have not already been nominated as such.

A.—(*a*) The Member is referred to sections 22 and 23 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

(*b*) No non-official Indians have been appointed justices of the peace.

(*c*) In the mufassal under section 22 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, only European-British subjects are eligible to be justices of the peace. There is no such restriction in the Presidency-town and no rule to prevent the appointment of non-officials if for the purpose of administration such appointment is found desirable.

(*d*) No such proposal is under consideration.

(*e*) The Government have no information, but a perusal of the Bombay Civil List suggests that some of the justices for the town of Bombay are probably non-official Indians.